

CAYUGA NATION TO SEEK RETURN OF STOLEN PROPERTIES

Following yesterday's decision of an Appellate Court determining the rightful ownership of Cayuga Nation properties in Seneca County that were illegally seized four years ago, the Nation's leadership has indicated that it intends to pursue the return of these properties.

"This theft of our properties in Seneca County has gone on long enough. After four years of fighting, it has come time for this small dissident group within our Nation to acknowledge that they have lost their court fight and that they should return these properties in the care of our Nation's rightful leadership for the benefit of our Nation as a whole," Nation Federal Representative Clint Halftown said.

Halftown noted that the group within the Cayuga Nation known as the "Unity Council" forcibly seized five of the Nation's commercial properties in April of 2014. The properties included the Nation's former offices, the Nation's convenience store known as Lakeside Trading, a cannery facility operated by the Nation, a security trailer used by Nation's security personnel, and an ice cream stand known as the Sugar Shack, all in Seneca County.

"As a result of the theft of these properties our Nation has been deprived of the income from our convenience store in Seneca Falls as well as the use of these other properties for over four years," Halftown said. He said the store has since been operated by a small group of Nation citizens and other individuals who have siphoned off the profits from the operation of the store for their personal benefit.

"When our Nation Council operated the store, the profits of the store were used to purchase land, develop Nation businesses and better the lives of our people. We are going to pursue this lawsuit as vigorously as possible including not only the return of these properties but also damages based on the loss of revenue the Nation has suffered," Halftown added.